

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 SSC-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01 EB-07 CIEP-01

SAM-01 /090 W

----- 030386

R 131116Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7724

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

EUFNPS/AMEMBASSY HUBRIS 1262

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

US MISSION GENEVA 231

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 535

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CZ

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS, VISITS AND OTHER NEWS

1. AT LUNCHEON OF DCMS' GROUP MARCH 12 FOLLOWING MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS WERE TOUCHED ON:

2. APPOINTMENTS. EGYPTIAN DCM (FAHMY) SAID HE HAD JUST HEARD OF TWO NEW APPOINTMENTS AS DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, BERGER (CZECH AMB TO ROME) AND OUR VERY OWN SPACIL. DURING CALL ON ZANTOVSKY BY CARROLL BROWN OF EE LATER IN DAY CHARGE ASKED IF RUMORS WERE TRUE AND ZANTOVSKY (HEAD OF SIXTH DEPT.) GAVE US SURPRISED LOOK AND TIGHT LIPS, LEAVING IMPRESSION THAT EGYPTIAN INFO WAS GOOD. (CHARGE HAD BEEN TOLD RECENTLY THAT APPOINTMENTS WERE TO BE MADE PRESENTLY, AND THAT

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SOME RESHUFFLING OF AREAS COVERED WOULD ENSUE AMONG

DEPUTY FONMINS. FONMIN SOURCE SAID HOWEVER THAT RUZEK WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE BROAD AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY, ALMOST SAME AS AT PRESENT.) ONE SLOT, FORMERLY HELD BY GOETZ, STILL NOT FILLED.

3. VISITS. GERMAN DCM REPORTED THAT FONMIN GENSCHER VISIT NOW SET FOR MARCH 24-25. GERMANS ARE NOT SANGUINE ABOUT ANYTHING SOLID COMING OUT OF VISIT. PRIVATELY THEY CONCEDE THAT WITH SO MANY STATE ELECTIONS COMING UN, AND WITH "HUMANITARIAN ISSUES" (MAINLY GERMANS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND POLAND) POLITICALLY SENSITIVE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP DOMESTIC POLITICS FROM BULKING LARGE IN FRG-CZECH RELATIONS. GERMAN AMB TOLD US HE WOULD BE TRYING TO PERSUADE GENSCHER NOT TO MAKE AN ARRIVAL STATEMENT (WHICH IS NOT CUSTOMARY IN PRAGUE), WITH IMPLICATION THAT STATEMENT WOULD BE CONNECTED WITH DOMESTIC POLITICAL ENDS AND WOULD BE HARMFUL. (PROTECT.) GERMAN DCM ALSO SAID THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT DETERIORATION IN FRG-POLISH RELATIONS AND ITS SPILLOVER EFFECT HERE: THEY SUSPECT THAT WEEKEND MEETING IN THE TATRAS OF POLISH AND CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTERS WAS AT LEAST IN PART FOR CONCERTING POSITIONS TOWARDS FRG. THERE HAS BEEN GENERAL TIGHTENING HERE OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS GERMAN EMIGRATION AND MARRIAGES WITH CZECHS AND SIMILAR MATTERS, SO GERMAN EMBASSY LOOKS FOR GENSCHER TALKS TO BE NOT OVERLY PLEASANT.

4. MORE VISITS. FRENCH DCM REPORTED VERY WARM RECEPTION OF THEIR NEW AMBASSADOR. (PRESS ACCOUNTS OF PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS NOTED THAT RECOGNITION WOULD BE GIVEN TO ROLE OF FRENCH PARTISANS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA DURING WWII. UK DCM SAID CZECHS ALSO HAD TALKED TO THEM ABOUT MUTUAL CELEBRATION OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY. SEEMS ONLY US IS LEFT OUT.) PLANS FOR VISIT OF FONMIN CHNOUPEK TO PARIS FIRST OF APRIL ARE WELL ADVANCED, AND EMPHASIS WILL PROBABLY BE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS. IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT PLANS FOR EARLY VISIT OF AUSTRIAN FONMIN ARE COMING ALONG, FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL RECENT VISIT OF STATE SECRETARY. FINALLY, EGYPTIAN DCM SAID PLANNED VISIT BY MIN FOREIGN TRADE BARCAK TO CAIRO ON MARCH 24 HAD BEEN CANCELLED, BECAUSE BARCAK HAD TO APPEAR FOR IMPORTANT DISCUSSION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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ECONOMIC MATTERS AT FEDERAL ASSEMBLY.

5. INTERNAL SCENE. NO ONE HAD YET DETECTED ANY REACTION HERE TO PUBLICATION ABROAD OF SMRKOVSKY MEMOIRS. (CHARGE NOTED CZECH PROTEST ABOUT WASHPOST PUBLICATION AND ASKED IF ITALIANS, GERMANS OR BRITISH HAD GOT ANY PROTESTS: ALL SAID NO.) GROUP DISCUSSED PERPETUAL RUMORS HERE THAT SOME KIND OF LIBERALIZATION WAS IN WORKS. RECENT

VARIANT OF RUMORS IS THAT OTHER PARTIES ARE PRESSURING CZECHS TOWARDS LIBERALIZATION, BECAUSE THEIR RIGID ATTITUDE MADE ENTIRE EAST LOOK BAD. MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE DCMS WERE SKEPTICAL OF ANY PROSPECTS FOR LIBERALIZATION, DESPITE RECURRENT RUMORS. JUST AS WITH ECONOMIC REFORM, PRESSURES FOR CHANGE ALWAYS SEEMED TO RUN INTO HIGH-LEVEL NEED FOR CAUTION, AND RESULT USUSALLY SEEMED TO BE STATUS QUO.

6. RECENT TVORBA EPISODE WAS ADDUCED AS EXAMPLE. IN FEB 5 LITERARY SUPPLEMENT OF THIS PERIODICAL PETER HAJEK, SON OF EDITOR JIRI HAJEK, PRINTED STORY "EXILE" WHICH TOLD PLAINLY ABOUT PERSECUTION AND UNFAIR TREATMENT OF 1968 PEOPLE, TELLING STORY OF OLD DOCTOR BEING "RETIRED" BECAUSE OF WHAT HE KID IN 1968, AND HIS DAUGHTER BEING TURNED DOWN FOR JOB SHE HAD BEEN EDUCATED FOR. IN FEB 26 ISSUE HAJEK PERE PRINTED A MEA CULPA SAYING PUBLICATION OF STORY WAS "SERIOUS POLITICAL MISTAKE." ONE RUMOR HAS IT THAT FATHER WAS ILL OR EVEN ABSENT AND SON GOT STORY PRINTED UNDER FALSE PRETENSE OF FULL PARENTAL APPROVAL. BUT SOME THINK STORY MAY HAVE BEEN TRIAL BALLOON BY LIBERAL ELEMENTS WHO CONTINUE PRESSING FOR MORE JUSTICE OF PERSECUTED 1968 FIGURES. IF SO, DCMS AGREED, MEA CULPA INDICATES THAT FORCES OF REPRESSION ARE STILL ON TOP. THE INCIDENT WAS SAID TO ILLUSTRATE THE CONTINUING ROILING OF THE WATERS BENEATH THE SURFACE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, VISITS, POLITICAL SUMMARIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ellisoob  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PRAGUE00535  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750088-0387  
**From:** PRAGUE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750354/aaaabwjr.tel  
**Line Count:** 142  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisoob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** APPOINTMENTS, VISITS AND OTHER NEWS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, CZ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006